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KATALA FOUNDATION BAGS THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD 2011

Puerto Princesa City, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES – The Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP) of the Katala Foundation Inc. bagged the most coveted Governor's Award this year under the group category. The award was given by none other than the Governor of the Province of Palawan, Hon. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra on June 23 in celebration of the 109th Founding Anniversary of the Civil Government of Palawan and its Annual Baragatan Festival. The recognition came with Twenty thousand pesos cash prize.



The PCCP was awarded for its unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation and diligently campaigning to save the critically endangered Philippine cockatoo which has the stronghold of its population in the island province of Palawan. The Committee on Governor's Award adds that the PCCP instills in the province "a shared responsibility for the maintenance of Palawan's unique and rich environment". Katala Foundation was among the three awardees under the group category but was the lone awardee for Environment Protection criteria. The citation reads "The result of the diligent campaign to save the critically endangered Philippine cockatoos in the province is inspiring, transforming poachers to wardens and educating every community to piece their share in the preservation campaign. Their efforts were best exemplified in 2008 when the Department of Tourism declared Rasa Island, a project site in Narra, Palawan, one of the top ten birding sites in the country. These and other continuing projects in the Municipalities of Rizal and Dumarán, become a true shining example of the environmental principles for which we should all stand".

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The Katala Foundation was nominated by the Municipal Budget Officer of Rizal, Palawan, Mr. Antonio C. Banlawe. Rizal is one of continuing project sites of the PCCP where nest protection scheme is in place with Pala'wan tribal members as wildlife

wardens. A PRIDE campaign was also implemented in the site to increase levels of knowledge, attitude and behavior towards protection of lowland habitats especially those nesting and feeding grounds of the Philippine cockatoo and other threatened cavity-nesting birds in the area.

For more information about the PCCP, please contact Indira Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan at telephone number +63484347693 or visit our homepage at www.philippinecockatoo.org.

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Editor's Note:

- Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses the endemic Philippine cockatoo as its flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with active community involvement. We believe that increased awareness and knowledge on biological conservation is vital to influence positive behavior towards protection and conservation.
- KFI implements the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP) in the Philippines with target sites in Palawan, the stronghold of the species. KFI employs an ecosystemic and participatory approach for conservation where people are given important roles in the entirety of the program implementation. It's project sites are the Municipalities of Narra, Dumarán, Rizal and Balabac.